

Message Text

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EB/TD - MR. FREEMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: INTELSAT, ETEL

SUBJ T: INTELSAT: ROC MEMBERSHIP AND ACCESS

REF: TAIPEI 5783

1. ROC EMBASSY MINISTER MARTIN WONG CALLED AT DEPARTMENT AUGUST 25 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS TACTICS FOR INTELSAT MEETING. DEPTOFFS TOOK OCCASION TO INFORM WONG THAT PAKISTAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, HAD THAT DAY FORMALLY REQUESTED INSCRIPTION OF CHIREP ITEM ON AGENDA FOR NAIROBI MEETING (SEPTEL). DEPTOFFS SAID THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CONTENTS OF RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM BUT UNDERTOOK TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE LEARNED FROM PAKISTANIS ON THAT POINT.

2. WONG SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO ASK WHETHER USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER A RESOLUTION AT NAIROBI
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MEETING INTENDED TO PROTECT ROC ACCESS, SPECIFICALLY

A RESOLUTION TO THE EFFECT THAT "THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN UTILIZING INTELSAT SERVICES MAY, IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY EXIST, CONTINUE TO USE THOSE FACILITIES." WONG SAID SUCH A RESOLUTION DID NOT REFER SPECIFICALLY TO TAIWAN BUT WOULD BE DESIGNED TO EXPRESS THE ASSEMBLY'S DESIRE TO ASSURE TAIWAN'S CONTINUED ACCESS TO

INTELSAT.

3. DEPTOFFS SAID THEY COULD GIVE NO DEFINITIVE ANSWER CONCERNING US ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH A RESOLUTION BECAUSE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT YET REACHED DECISION ON PREFERRED TACTICS FOR PROTECTING ROC ACCESS. WONG ADDED THAT ROC ITSELF HAD NOT DECIDED THAT SUCH A RESOLUTION WAS BEST APPROACH BUT DID WISH TO KNOW WHETHER US WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER SUCH A RESOLUTION. DEPTOFFS WERE NON-COMMITTAL BUT ASKED WONG A VARIETY OF QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO ILLUSTRATE SOME POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH.

4. DEPTOFFS SAID US WOULD WEIGH PRESENTING SUCH A RESOLUTION ALONG WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER POSSIBLE TACTICS INCLUDING: (A) SILENCE ON ACCESS QUESTION, (B) THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AS MANY STATEMENTS AS POSSIBLE BY PARTIES REPRESENTED AT NAIROBI CONCERNING IMPORTANCE OF ROC CONTINUED ACCESS TO INTELSAT, (C) APPROACH TO NAIROBI CHAIRMAN TO EXPRESS SENSE OF ASSEMBLY THAT ROC ACCESS SHOULD BE PRESERVED, (D) AMENDMENT OF EXPULSION RESOLUTION TO ADD PARAGRAPH ON CONTINUED ROC ACCESS, AND OTHERS. DESIRED APPROACH WOULD DEPEND UPON NATURE OF RESOLUTION, PRC ATTITUDE ON ACCESS ISSUE AND ON THE ROC'S OWN DECISIONS. DEPTOFFS EXPRESSED HOPE MARTIN WONG WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CLEAR READING OF ROC'S DESIRED TACTICS WHEN HE RETURNED FROM FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS IN TAIPEI.

5. WONG SAID HE WAS STILL INTENDING TO RECOMMEND TO TAIPEI THAT ROC WITHDRAW FROM INTELSAT IN MID TO LATE SEPTEMBER AND THEREAFTER SEND SMALL THREE-MAN DELEGATION TO NAIROBI TO EXPRESS ROC'S ECONOMIC INTEREST IN

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CONTINUED ACCESS AND TO APPEAL TO OTHERS FOR SUPPORT ON THIS POINT. WONG STATED HIS INTENTION TO REPORT TO TAIPEI THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS APPROACH WITH DEPARTMENT. DEPTOFFS SAID ONLY THAT DECISION WAS FOR ROC TO MAKE AND REITERATED DESIRE FOR EARLY READING ON ROC'S PREFERRED APPROACH.

6. WANG ALSO REITERATED MINISTER FANG'S QUESTION

(REFTEL) ON WHETHER THERE WAS AN ABSOLUTELY ASSURED WAY TO PROTECT ROC ACCESS. DEPTOFFS SAID THAT ROC ACCESS WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US AND THAT THEY WERE PERSONALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS ON THIS POINT AT NAIROBI. HOWEVER, IN THEIR JUDGMENT, THERE WAS NO ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN WAY TO PROTECT ACCESS. MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION WOULD EXIST IF PRC ON BECOMING MEMBER CLAIMED JURISDICTION OVER TAIWAN AND DEMANDED THAT

INTELSAT CEASE ALL DEALINGS WITH TAIWAN. FORTUNATELY, THE ADMITTEDLY UNCERTAIN INDICATIONS ARE THAT PRC MAY NOT PURSUE THIS APPROACH, AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTURE. DEPTOFFS SAID THAT IN DEVISING TACTICS IT SEEMED IMPORTANT NOT TO PROVOKE PRC OR ITS FRIENDS INTO PRESSING ACCESS QUESTION AT NAIROBI.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DEPTOFFS WERE NON-COMMITTAL CONCERNING TACTICS WONG INTENDS TO RECOMMEND, WE BELIEVE HE WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPLY UPON RETURNING TO TAIPEI THAT DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS HIS RECOMMENDATION IN ORDER TO WIN HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT. WHILE WE DO NOT NECESSARILY WISH TO DISCOURAGE WONG'S EFFORTS, EMBASSY SHOULD, WHEN ASKED, REITERATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT REACHED ANY DECISION ON PREFERRED TACTICS. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WONG RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH CLEAR READING OF TACTICS ROC WISHES TO EMPLOY. EMBASSY SHOULD ENCOURAGE ROC TO REACH EARLY DECISIONS SO THAT WONG WILL BE IN A POSITION TO CONSULT EFFECTIVELY WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.

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